

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 200664

42

ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 NEA-10 ISO-00 PCH-08 CIAE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 INRE-00

SSO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 NSCE-00 TRSE-00 AID-20 IGA-02

OMB-01 /207 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:HRMELONE:JR

APPROVED BY AF/E:WBCOOTE

OASD/ISA-LTC. STEPP

AF/P-MRS. RUSSELL

PM/ISO-MR. HAGERTY

H-MR. JENKINS(SUBS)

OASD/PA-COL. EDWARDS

EUR/NE-MR. BECELIA

NEA/RA-MR. GRANT

USIA-MR. TIMRUD (SUBS)

AF/RA-MR. NAVEZ

EA/RA-MR. FINCH (SUBS)

----- 064475

O R 101624Z OCT 73 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 200664

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
SECDEF
CINCUSNAVEUR
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
COMIDEASTFOR
CINCLANTFLT
CINCLANT
AMEMBASSY SANAA BY POUCH
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT BY POUCH
AMEMBASSY JIDDA BY POUCH
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM BY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 200664

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, ET, UK, US
SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON KAGNEW PHASE-DOWN AND DIEGO
GARCIA IMPROVEMENTS
REFERENCE: (A) STATE 199946; (B) STATE 199402; (C) LONDON
11275; (D) STATE 191789(NOTAL)

1. IN LIGHT LONDON PRESS STORY ON KAGNEW AND FACT THAT
ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT WISHES MAKE ANNOUNCEMENT AS SOON
AS POSSIBLE, DOD INTENDS MAKE FOLLOWING LOW-KEYED RELEASE
ON KAGNEW AT 11 A.M. EDT NEWS BRIEFING OCTOBER 11. ADDIS
SHOULD INFORM IEG IT MAY MAKE ANNOUNCEMENT AT 4 P.M. LOCAL
OCTOBER 11 OR AT ANY TIME THEREAFTER. IEG EMBASSY INFORMED.

QUOTE: THE IEG AND THE USG HAVE MUTUALLY AGREED THAT
THE U.S. COMMUNICATIONS CENTER AT ASMARA, ETHIOPIA -
KAGNEW SATION - WILL BE PHASED DOWN AND THAT THE PHASING
WILL BE COMPLETED BY 1 JULY 1974. A GROUP OF ABOUT 100
U.S. PERSONNEL WILL HOWEVER CARRY ON RESIDUAL COMMUNICATIONS
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PAGE 03 STATE 200664

ACTIVITIES FOR AT LEAST ANOTHER YEAR BEYOND THAT.

THE KAGNEW COMMUNICATIONS CENTER HAS BEEN OPERATED BY
THE U.S. ON THE BASIS OF AN AGREEMENT ENTERED INTO BETWEEN
THE IEG AND THE USG IN 1953 AND EXTENDING THROUGH 1978.

THE INITIATION OF THE PHASE-DOWN PROCESS HAS BEEN IN
RESPONSE TO THE WISHES OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS AND ADVANCES

IN THE FIELD OF COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY. UNQUOTE

2. FOLLOWING Q AND A GUIDANCE HAS BEEN AGREED TO BY IEG
AND MAY BE USED IN RESPONSE TO ANY INQUIRIES:

Q. WHEN WILL PHASE-DOWN BEGIN?

A. IMMEDIATELY.

Q. WHAT WILL BE IMPACT ON FLEET COMMUNICATIONS?

A. NEGLIGIBLE. ALTERNATIVE MEANS WILL BE EMPLOYED
TO HANDLE FLEET COMMUNICATIONS.

Q. HOW MANY AMERICANS ARE CURRENTLY AT KAGNEW?

A. ABOUT 850, PLUS DEPENDENTS.

Q. HOW MANY ETHIOPIAN EMPLOYEES WILL BE AFFECTED?

Q. EXACT NUMBER OF ETHIOPIANS FOR WHOM EMPLOYMENT
WILL BE AVAILABLE IS STILL UNCLEAR, BUT MANY, OF COURSE,
WILL BE RETAINED. U.S. OFFICIALS WILL COLLABORATE
CLOSELY WITH ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT IN OUR MUTUAL DESIRE
TO INSURE THAT TRANSITION FROM KAGNEW EMPLOYMENT WILL BE
AS SMOOTH AS POSSIBLE.

Q. DOES THIS MEAN DIMINUTION IN USG INTEREST IN
AND ASSISTANCE FOR ETHIOPIA?

A. NO. THE MUTUALLY AGREED PHASE-DOWN HAS BEEN
BROUGHT ABOUT IN RESPONSE TO THE WISHES OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS
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PAGE 04 STATE 200664

AND BY TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES AND U.S. BUDGETARY
CONSIDERATIONS THAT HAVE LED TO CLOSING OF SCORES OF
MILITARY INSTALLATIONS IN U.S. AND ABROAD. IT IN NO
WAY AFFECTS LONG-STANDING FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN ETHIOPIA
AND U.S., NOR DOES IT IMPLY ANY DIMINUTION IN OUR
ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA.

3. FOLLOWING CONTINGENCY STATEMENT HAS BEEN AGREED TO BY
HMG AND MAY BE DRAWN ON IN RESPONSE TO QUERIES:

EXISTING COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES AT DIEGO GARCIA
ARE TO BE IMPROVED TO MEET ONGOING COMMUNICATIONS REQUIRE-
MENTS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA. THIS IMPROVEMENT
WILL IN NO WAY ALTER THE FUNCTION OF THE FACILITY AT
DIEGO GARCIA (WHICH WILL REMAIN WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF

THE EXISTING SITE) AND IS WITHIN THE TERMS OF THE
EXISTING US/UK AGREEMENT OF 24 OCTOBER 1972. THE BRITISH
GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN CONSULTED AND HAS GIVEN ITS APPROVAL.

4. FYI. WE DO NOT YET KNOW NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL
AMERICANS THAT MAY BE NEEDED AT DIEGO. END FYI.

5. DEPT AND DOD WILL MAKE PRELIMINARY INDICATION OF OUR
PLANS TO CONGRESS ON OCTOBER 10. IF HMG INTENDS INFORM
ITS POSTS IN NON-ADDRESSEE COUNTRIES, LONDON REQUESTED
GIVE ADDITIONAL NAMES TO DEPT. KISSINGER

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED ABOVE ADDEES.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Draft Date: 10 OCT 1973
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: willialc
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Reason:
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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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